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The island's innovative wines, modern menus and art makes for the perfect escape

unseekers are not strangers to the draw of the Balearic Islands, but swipe away preconceived notions of club scenes and excess because over the past few years, Majorca, in particular, has been transforming itself into a luxe getaway, one that's best visited out of

season, away from the crowds of beach-club aficionados. Across the island, the emergence of beautiful boutique hotels, interesting restaurants and small vineyards, as well as the short flight time, make it the ideal break for a weekend or longer, any time of year.

Wine awaits
As the largest of the Balearic

As the largest of the Balearic Islands, there's a lot to see and enjoy in Majorca – and visiting a vineyard is a must. Its geographical location, temperate climate and fertile land provide the best environment for some seriously good wines. Two standout, yet very different wineries are located in the northern part of the island, so

part of the island, so a car is necessary. For elegant wines that pair well with cheese, Can Axartell will impress with its selection, all made in a hyper-modern building built in an abandoned quarry.

While Vinyes Mortitx,

owned by a group of local people, has a more traditional feel, with a smaller plot of land and hand-harvested grapes, which produce delicious bottles of syrah, chardonnay and merlot. Both vineyards can arrange intimate guided tours, where you can learn all about the fascinating process of winemaking before sampling some of the best ones.

art of the Miró

oundation Museum

Artistic hub

Art and the Balearics go hand in hand, with artists such as Miquel Barceló and Vincent Calbet making the islands their home over the years. One of Palma's most famous residents was Joan Miró, who moved to Majorca with his wife Pilar Juncosa in 1956. His house and studio, just outside the city centre in Cala Major district,



For a memorable experience, book ahead to secure a table at two-Michelinstarred restaurant Zaranda (zaranda.es). Headed up by chef Fernando P Arellano, dishes focus on local flavours and look like mini works of art. A meal at Zaranda doesn't come cheap, with tasting menus starting at €115, but it

will elevate your trip to

the unforgettable.

FOOD LOVERS

72 Woman's Weekly



immediately stuns with its bright white and primarycoloured facade designed by Rafael Moneo.

The most peaceful part is at the back of the studio, where an old finca (farm) sits surrounded by pine trees. Visitors can fully immerse themselves in Miró's eccentric world and learn more about his painting, drawing, sculpture and artistic processes - including sketching directly onto the finca walls - with a tour around the buildings and gardens.

More of Miró's artistic creations can be found in the city centre, alongside some wonderful architecture. Edifici Casasayas, inspired by Gaudí, are arguably the most beautiful buildings. Built between

1908-1911, the two houses feature magnificent facades and motifs inspired by nature, while the art-nouveau Can Forteza Rey and the incredibly detailed La Seu cathedral are a short stroll away.

Stay in luxury

Palma is overflowing with unique boutique hotels, where design and intimacy are paramount.

Unassuming from the outside, Can Bordoy Grand House & Garden Hotel is a luxurious place that has everything to make your stay total heaven, including two pools (one heated), a relaxing spa and a secret garden. Huge beds come with remote controls on each side to adjust the firmness of the mattress, and there are under-bed spotlights controlled by sensors to ensure you can find your way back to the bed in the middle of the night. The hotel serves breakfast all day, so there's no chance of missing it should you fancy a lie-in, and it can be eaten in any of the fabulously designed dining rooms, or out on the terrace during warmer months.

GETTING THERE

Flights from London Stansted to Palma start from £45 return with Ryanair, or £76 return from London Gatwick with British Airways. Suites at Can Bordoy start from £218 per night with free cancellation through booking.com



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4 Star Valamar Parentino Hotel in Porec

The newly upgraded and modern 4 star Valamar Parentino Hotel is surrounded by gardens and the stunning Adriatic seafront is right on its doorstep. There are unforgettable views across the bay to nearby Porec and its picturesque old town from the panoramic terraces and gardens

The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool and large sun terrace with deck chairs and parasols. The blue flag pebble beach is just 200m away. In the buffet restaurant the chefs put on show cooking and you can watch them preparing both international and Croatian cuisine. After dinner relax in one of the two bars.

The well appointed twin and double bedrooms have en-suite bathroom, air conditioning, a balcony, safe, hair dryer, flat screen satellite TV, a mini bar and WiFi.



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